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THE LEBANON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING

DECEMBER 17, 1915

REPORTS OF
OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Memorial Sketches



The Lebanon County Historical Society

EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING

At this meeting, held December 17, 1915, reports for the year named were submitted by the Executive Committee, the Treasurer, the Librarian, the Committee on Biography, the Committee on History and the Committee on Necrology, and are here given in the order named, that of the Treasurer, however, only in abstract. Officers of the Society for the year 1916 were also elected.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee begs to submit the following as its report for the year 1915:—

The Committee held five meetings during the year. The Society held only four meetings instead of six, the usual number of meetings in a year. The June meeting was ordered to be substituted by a Pilgrimage outing, which, however, did not come to pass, and the August meeting, altho called, was not held for want of a quorum.

The meetings were well attended, and were favored with Papers of high merit. Their titles and writers are as follows:—

"The Beginning of the Evangelical Church in Lebanon County," by Rev. C. A. Bowmn, Ph. D. Read Feb. 26.

"Lustre Ware and its Historical and Artistic Bearings," by Mrs. F. W. Robbins, Ph. D. Read Feb. 26.

"Annville's Oldest Burial Place and its Memories," by Prof. Thos. S. Stein. Read Nov. 5.

"A Lebanon County Old Time Backwoods Preacher, His Times and His Preaching," by Prof. H. H. Shenk. Read Dec. 17.

Four of the usual publications of the Society were issued

during the year, and copies supplied to the numbers entitled to the same, and to exchanging and subscribing bodies, the four numbers entitled as follows:-

No. 10, Vol. VI. "Cooking Utensils and Cookery of our Grandmothers," "Lard Dips, Candle Sticks and Lamps," or "The Light of Other Days." 19 pages. Ill. 3.

No. 11, Vol. VI. Annual, incident to the Society's Annual Meeting Dec. 19, 1914, containing "A Review of the Year's Work," "Sketch of Hon. John Kinports." Address: "Historical Education and Historical Societies." 17 pages. III. I.

No. 12, Vol. VI. "Millbach History and Lore." 21 pages. Ill. 5.

No. 13, Vol. VI. "Lustre Ware, Historical and Descriptive." 19 pages. Ill. 3.

A total of 75 pages and 12 illustrations.

Four persons were admitted to membership in the Society, and eight members lost by death. The number of members currently in good standing, and by "good standing" is meant such as have paid annual dues within 2 years, is 173, from which total number are to be deducted 5 of the 8 who died, who at the time of their death were in good standing within the strict meaning of that term, leaving the actual number now in good standing at 168.

Of the 313 persons who have been enrolled as members of the Society during its 17 years of existence 48 have been called away by death, a 15 per cent loss alone by death, not considering losses for other reasons. Your Committee begs each member of the Society to consider himself or herself a committee of one to solicit others to unite with the Society and to lend their active participation in the work the Society is attempting to do for this and coming generations of Lebanon County. Often the mere asking to join the Society is gladly received and accepted.

Monies received per the Secretary were as follows:—

THE ANNUAL MEETING	305
Annual dues for the year 1912	3.00 3.00 3.00 3.00
Total	
Respectfully submitted by the Executive Comm	nittee,
S. P. HEILMAN, Se	ecretary.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

The Treasurer, E. W. Miller, Esq., reported (summarized
here):
A balance from the last previous audit, Feb.
20, 1915, of\$701.16
Received from the Secretary, S. P. Heilman,
M. D. for Fees, Dues and Miscellaneous
sources for the year 1915 189.00
From the County Commissioners 200.00
 \$1,090.16
Payments made 247.76
Balance on hand, Dec. 17, 1915 842.40
1,090.16

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN

Lebanon, Pa., December 17, 1915.

To the Lebanon County Historical Society:

Your Librarian herewith submits his Annual Report for the year 1915, as follows:—

Upon the death of Prof. Samuel Riegel, March 15, 1915, the undersigned was elected his successor for the unexpired term as Librarian, and sometime thereafter there was handed to him by the Secretary of the Society, Dr. S. P. Heilman, the Record Book of the Librarian.

The said Record Book of Donations and Accessions had but one entry during the four years that Mr. Riegel was the Librarian, and that was for the period Oct. 28, 1910, to February 17, 1911, being the date of the Bi-monthly meeting of February 17, 1911, immediately following his assuming custody of the Book, which entry covered Articles Nos. 807 to 815 inclusive.

Your Librarian has not obtained the list of donations and accessions since that date, covering a period of almost five years, but expects in the near future to bring said record up to date from the record made by the Secretary of said donations and accessions as contained in the minutes of the Secretary and as reported by him from meeting to meeting.

The Library and Museum Collections previous to Mr. Riegel's and my period are stored in the basement of the Court House, and no proper facilities are provided for their display, as also of such donations and accessions as have come to the Society during his and my periods*.

Your Librarian would offer the following suggestions for some kind of a display of same, until a better place can be secured, viz:—

That permission be obtained from the County Commissioners to use and arrange the discarded shelving in said basement room where the relics are now stored, in order temporarily to display the Society's relics, and thus encourage its friends to make further donations, and enable them to be seen to advantage by those interested.

Respectfullysubmitted,

CHARLES D. WEIRICK, Librarian.

* Note by the Secretary.—An exact record is kept and from time to time spread on the minutes of the Society, before which latter due announcement of them is also made, of all donations and accessions to the Society's Library and Museum collections. All such articles are carefully held by the Secretary until such time as the Society can secure for itself a suitable place for their display and access to, which did not occur during the late Mr. Riegel's librarianship and has not occurred so far in the present librarian's period. During these two periods, that is, that of Mr. Riegel and of Mr. Weirick so far say, from Feb. 17, 1911, to the present time, the number of pieces accssioned has been about

550, which, of course, is to be understood as so many additions during the periods, to what the Society already had at the time its library cases and their contents had to be moved out of the Grand Jury Room in the month of April, 1911, and placed into the basement room where they since have been and are now, as explained in the foregoing report of the Society's Librarian. It is for the purpose of getting out of this intolerable situation as to its library collection, now already numbering over 5,000 pieces, and of great reference value, that the Society, if for no other reason, needs support and financial aid.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON BIOGRAPHY

The Committee on Biography, Messrs. Thos. S. Stein, Wm. M. Guilford and J. L. Rockey submitted as its report a brief sketch of General John Philip De Haas, Lebanon County's leading figure in the Colonial War and in the War of the Revolution. In view of the fact that a complete sketch of General De Haas is shortly to be read before the Society the Committee explained that it submitted this sketch of him at this time merely to draw attention to the man sketched, and as a brief survey of his life and services.

John Philip De Hass was born in Holland in 1735, the son of John Nicholas De Haas. In 1739 his father emigrated to Pennsylvania and took out a warrant for 150 acres of land in Lebanon Township.

Already in early life he was an officer in the French and Indian war. His rise was rapid. In 1757 he was Ensign of the Provincial Battalion of Pennsylvania, and Adjutant in 1758. In 1760 he was a Captain in Col. Burd's Regiment, and in 1764 Major of the First Battalion in Gen. John Penn's Regiment. In 1763 he served under Gen. Bouquet in that General's famous expedition. He shared with other officers in land grants on the West Branch of the Susquehanna. His son, of the same name, moved on this land, hence the numerous De Haas descendants in Clinton and Centre Counties.

Gen. De Haas was in command of Fort Henry in 1764. For the next ten years—1765 to 1775—he was a resident of

Lebanon, where he was interested in the iron business, and also served as a justice of the peace for Lancaster County. In Lebanon he built the house now the residence of Dr. A. B. Gloninger, corner of 9th and Cumberland Sts.

When the Revolution broke out he was eager and enthusiastic in the cause. In January, 1776, he was Colonel of the First Pa. Battalion in the Northern Campaign, and in October of the same year we find him Colonel of the 2nd Pa. Regiment of the Continental Line. In February, 1777, he was appointed Brigadier General by Congress. In 1779 he was out of the army.

Gen. De Haas was a stern man and a strict disciplinarian. Does this trait of character furnish the clue for his retirement from the Army?

CHRONICLE OF EVENTS

In Lebanon County during the early part of 1915.

By Rev. T. E. Schmauk, D. D, LL. D, Chairman.

January 4—Jacob D. Miller was elected President of the Directors of the Poor. They ask the County Commissioners for \$20,000 for expenses during 1915.

January 7.—Wheat \$1.25 a bushel.

January 9.—Tobias Gerberich died, near Walmer's Church, at the age of 86 years.

January 10.—Fire in the Laudermilch Livery Stable.

January 11.—The Henry S. Heilman estate gets \$3,278.-76 damages for the construction of the Lebanon and Annville Street Railway. The case had been in the court twenty-four years.

January 14.—Wheat \$1.42 a bushel.

January 17.—Sensation created in the Academy of Music by apparent collapse of the girders of the Balcony.

January 18.—St. Luke's new Parish House dedicated.

THE ANNUAL MEETING

Judge Henry refuses license to Washington House, Steitz Hotel, Majestic Cafe and Crauss House, of Myerstown.

Harry Uhler elected Cashier of the Lebanon National Bank.

January 21.—Wheat \$1.44 a bushel.

January 24.—One of the heavy snows of the winter. Consecration of the newly re-modeled Tabor Reformed Church.

January 28.—Union Boiler Works received a large order from the United States for buoys.

Wheat \$1 50 a bushel.

February 1.—Cost of running Lebanon County during 1914 \$124,700.60.

February 2.—Eias Rittle, aged dairyman, east of Myerstown, died.

February 6.—Shortage discovered in First National Bank, Schaefferstown. Institution closed temporarily by United States Bank Examiner. A. J. Hoverter arrested.

February 8.—George Beck, furnaceman, died suddenly from apoplexy.

February 13—Collison on Lebanon Valley Street Railway, 12th and Cumberland Streets. No one killed.

February 25.—Death of Major P. G. Mark.

March 1.—Lebanon School of Telegraphy sold.

Trial of Ray Seiders for murder of John Mills. Seiders acquitted March 8.

March 4.—Evangelical Bishop appointed Rev. F. S. Borkey for the First Church and Rev. Edelman was returned to St. Paul's.

March 8.—Prof. Balsbaugh accepted the Chancellorship of the Pennsylvania Chautauqua.

March 11.—Statistics are made public showing 1,419 births and 883 deaths in Lebanon County during 1914.

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March 15.—Joseph Hoke dies of paralysis near Zinn's Mill at the age of 93 years.

March 18.—Trolley wires of E. and L. Trolley strung on Walnut Street between Ninth and Second.

March 25.—Ebersole tragedy at Fontana.

March 29.—Mrs. Elizabeth Marshail, of Annville, died at the age of 85.

Discovery of shortage in accounts of Cashier Hassler, of the Myerstown Trust Company.

April 19.—Committee on behalf of Stough campaign does not purchase Lancaster Tabernacle.

April 22.—Fire in the timberlands of South Mountain Lumber Company.

Mrs. Mary Petri, the oldest woman of the County, died at the age of 97. She was a member of St. Marys Catitolic Church.

May 6.—Dr. Henry Houck takes oath of office as Secretary of Internal Affairs, filing a bond of \$10,000.

May 10.—A. J. Hoverter sentenced to five years in the County Jail.

Good Roads' Conference at Court House.

May 17.—Dedication of the Church of the Sacred Heart at Cornwall.

A. S. Kreider Company determine to erect factory at Lebanon.

John Birkenbine, noted engineer, died at Cnywyd.

Thieves enter residence of George C. Gleim.

May 20.—The Weik-Carpenter tragedy at Waldeck Hotel.

May 22.—Death of A. R. Houck.

May 30.—Death of Dr. B. F. Zerbe.

W. J. Noll to succeed A. R. Houck as Chairman of Republican County Committee.

May 31.—Samuel Focht, carpenter of East Mifflin Street, died at the age of 73.

Ex-Bishop Heil at Myerstown.

June 6.—Brethren Conference at Hershey. Gov. Brumbaugh speaks to 60,000 people.

The Miller shooting tragedy.

June 14.-North 8th Street flooded.

June 21.—Funeral of Dr. Samuel Weiss.

June 24.—Peter Embich died at Myerstown.

July 8.—Cloudburst during the noon hour. Heaviest downpour of rain in years.

Chronicle continued by Rev. J. Max Hark, D. D.

July 9.—Contract awarded for paving Cumberland St. from 5th to 9th and 8th Street from Chestnut to the P. R. R., with wooden block.

The First, Third and Fourth Brigades of the N. G. P. open camp at Mt. Gretna.

July 13.—The Governor with the camp and on 15th reviews the N. G. P.

July 31.—Very warm, 90 degrees in the shade.

Aug. 4.—Considerable damage done by a severe wind and rain storm.

Aug. 14.—Formal opening of the Meadow Bank public Playgrounds.

Aug. 17.—The Lebanon Valley Fair opened.

Aug. 21.—A cyclone from the S. W. strikes Annville, unroofing or otherwise damaging about 100 buildings.

Aug. 24.—The stockholders of the Penna. Chautauqua voted to discontinue the summer school at Mt. Gretna.

Sept. 11.—Beginning of a seven weeks' evangelistic campaign by Dr. Stough.

Sept. 25.—New Public Borough Hall of the Independent District opened.

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Oct. 4.—Night schools opened with 375 scholars.

Oct. 12.—A new \$80,000 High School building dedicated at Palmyra.

Oct. 12.—The Womans Suffrage bell passed through the city. A large parade was held and this succeeded by a large meeting in Market Square addressed by able speakers.

Oct. 18.—Lebanon County Teachers' Institute held.

Oct. 23.—Fire at Annville destroyed the Annville Stock Yards.

Nov. 5.—The Weimer Machine Works partly destroyed by fire.

Nov. 25.—Carnival and parade in celebration of the completion of the woodblock paving on Cumberland Street from 5th to 9th, on 8th and 9th, from Chestnut to Lehman St, and on Lehman Street from 4th to 8th.

Dec. 3.—Contract awarded for building a new High School at 6th and Chestnut Streets for \$139,433 00.

REPORT of the COMMITTEE ON NECROLOGY

The Committee on Necrology, Messrs. S. P. Heilman, J. L. Lemberger and C. R. Lantz reported having had referred to it during the year 1915 the deaths of the following named members for the preparation of "suitable obituaries" of the same; namely:

George Henry Horst. Died Jan. 24, 1915.

Alvin Binner. Died Feb. 6, 1915.

Samuel Riegel. Died Mar. 15, 1915.

Alfred Rhodes Houck. Died May 22, 1915.

Benjamin Franklin Zerbe, M. D. Died May 30, 1915.

Henry C. Snavely. Died Nov. 21, 1915.

Thomas Roney Crowell, C. E. Died Nov. 24, 1915.

Richard Henry Lee. Died Dec. 8, 1915.

THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following were elected the officers of the Society for the year 1916:

President:

Capt. H. M. M. Richards, Litt. D., Lebanon, Pa.

Vice Presidents:

Charles M. Zerbe, Esq. Lebanon, Pa.

Clark M. Seltzer, Esq. Lebanon, Pa.

Secretary:

S. P. Heilman, M. D., Lebanon, Pa.

Treasurer:

E. W. Miller, Esq., Lebanon, Pa.

Librarian:

C. D. Weirick, Esq., Lebanon, Pa.

Executive Committee:

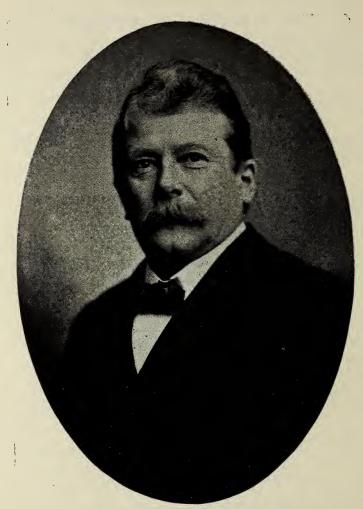
E. Grumbine, M. D., Mt. Zion, Pa. C. D. Weirick, Esq., Lebanon, Pa. (Terms of these two expire 1916.)

Prof. Thos. S. Stein, Annville, Pa. C. R. Lantz, Esq., Lebanon, Pa. (Terms of these two expire 1917.)

Rev. T. E. Schmauk, D. D., LL. D., Lebanon, Pa. H. C. Grittinger, Lebanon, Pa. (Terms of these two expire 1918.)

Committee on Nominations:

J. L. Rockey, Thos. S. Stein, George E. Meily.



GEO. HENRY HORST

In Memoriam

GEORGE HENRY HORST

Born March 16, 1850. Died January 24, 1915. Aged 64 yrs., 10 mos. and 8 days.

Mr. Horst, the son of Henry and Sarah (Landis) Horst, was born at Annville, Pa., but at the age of one year was taken by his parents to Union Deposit, Dauphin Co., Pa., where his father engaged in business. Here, in his child-hood years he attended the common schools, and later took a course at the Millersville State Normal School, Lancaster County. At the age of 18 he took a trip to the West, visiting the States of Indiana, Kansas and Colorado, but after a stay there of 4 years returned to the East for his permanent home.

In 1870 Mr. Horst came to Myerstown, and made that his home the balance of his life, a period of 42 years. One of his first acts after his advent there was to assist in organizing a bank for that town, the first of the then so-called State Banks, the charter, of which, the first of its kind for a State Bank, was drawn by him, and granted by a special Act of the State Legislature, and of which he was made the Cashier.

The Bank continued doing business under that charter, and under its renewal in 1892, until 1900, when it was made the Myerstown National Bank with a capital of \$50,000, of which he was continued the Cashier, and remained so until the day of his death. He was regarded as one of the best in-

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formed men in banking matters in that section, and under his administration the Bank had, and has had, a remarkably successful career.

Although banking was his main occupation Mr. Horst filled many other positions of trust and of community ser-He was a leading member of the Myerstown Reformed Church, of the Board of Trustees of which he was many years the President, and also took a deep interest and an active part, in the Sunday School of that congregation. was one of the organizers of the Tulpehocken Mutual Fire Insurance Company, and served as its Treasurer for many So also he was one of seven members to organize the Myerstown Water Company, of which he became and remained a Director and its Treasurer. He was a member of the Good Will Fire Company, of Myerstown, and for years served as its Treasurer. He was for many years a member of the School Board of that district, and a stockholder of the Palatinate College corporation at Myerstown, and served as Treasurer and a Director of the Institution from the time of its organization in 1867 until it was disposed of to the United Evangelical Church in 1896, since which it has been continued as Albright College. He became a member of the Lebanon County Historical Society Dec. 27, 1912.

Mr. Horst was the writer of highly meritorious poetry, and as such wrote many pieces during the middle and later periods of his life. Many of them appeared from time to time in the Lebanon Courier, his last piece entitled: "Misunderstood," appearing there in 1912. One of his choice pieces, entitled: "The Old Stone Church," and written as a memorial poem on the historic Host Church at Host, Berks Co., Pa., appeared in the Courier March 12, 1885, and con-

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sisted of six stanzas. In the last of these stanzas is finely expressed, what we believe he has now realized, this thought:

"In so quiet a spot, when the fevered dream Of a checkered life is o'er, May I rest in peace, with those who sleep To wake on earth no more."

Mr. Horst was married twice, first in 1881, to Annie R., a daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Richard J. See, of Myerstown, by whom he had one child, a daughter, May, who survives him, and is the wife of Dr. H. T. Miller, of Myerstown, and second, in 1891, to Lottie, a daughter of Adam Bahney, who survives him, as also his aged mother, Mrs. Sarah Horst, a sister of Mrs. Abrahaf L. Landis, both residing at Union Deposit, the mother being 87 years of age at the time of her son's (Mr. Horst's) death.

Mr. Horst was a man of quiet demeanor, yet strong in his beliefs, and outspoken as to his convictions. During his career at Myerstown he was one of its leading citizens, and took an active part in all movements promotive of the uplift and advancement of the town, and for this he will be remembered, as well as for his Christian character, and for his service to the community in which he abode and by his integrity gave it high standing.

S. P. H.

STANCE TO LEA



ALVIN J. BINNER

ALVIN BINNER

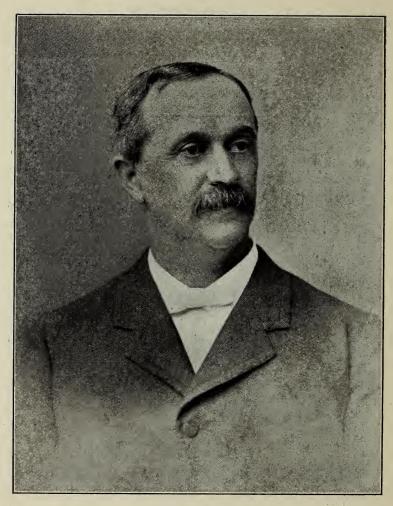
Born Dec. 22, 1876. Died February 6, 1915. Aged 38 yrs., 1 mo. and 14 days.

Mr. Binner, a son of Joseph and Mary (Heisey) Binner, was born at Buffalo Springs, a small settlement in Heidelberg Township, Lebanon County, now commonly known as "Groh's Store." After a period in the public schools of his district he took a course in the State Normal School at West Chester, Pa. On his return home from that course, and altho only about 25 years of age, he was elected Principal of the Schaefferstown High School, which was opened about the year 1901. During the Spring season of that year he taugit in the Lebanon Valley College, Annville. In both of these positions he acquitted himself wonderfully well, and this early evidence of his ambitious aims and intellectual attainments won him much commendation.

On the opening of the Schaefferstown National Bank, about six years ago, he was elected its Cashier, and acted as such to the day of his death. By reasonof his genial and accommodating manners, and thorough business methods he commanded the confidence of the people of his section, and the Schaefferstown Band at once become a strong financial institution in that town and vicinity. Besides having been Cashier of the Bark he was also the Treasurer of the Schaefferstown Rural Telephone Company. He was elected a member of the Lebanan County Historical Society, Oct. 31, 1913.

He was married to Miss Laura Smith, of Midway, Lebanon County, who survives him together with four of their children, and his parents, residing at Buffalo Springs, this County.

The circumstances attending his death were extremely sad, and over it all it behooves us to spread the mantle of charity and to put on record this Society's expression of sympathy with those near and dear to him of whose life, hitherto so promising and successful, they were so early bereft.



SAMUEL RIEGEL

Maring 188

SAMUEL RIEGEL

The work of the first

Born September 4,1845. Died March 15, 1915. Ag-ed 69 yrs., 6 mos. and 11 days.

Mr. Riegel was the son of Abraham and Mary (McConnell) Riegel, the old form of which name was Raiguel. On the paternal side he was in the fifth generation from Adam Raiguel, who landed in America August 13, 1750, and on the maternal side in the sixth generation from Johannes Light, (originally Licht) an immigrant to this country in 1719, and the first settler of that name in Lebanon County, and the reputed builder of "Light's Fort," a stone building erected in the early settlement period of this section at a point about one-half mile northwest of the centre of Steitztown, as Lebanon was then known, after the name of its founder George Steitz, in 1750, and was said to have been used as a place of refuge on the part of the settlers of the section against Indian raiders of those days. The shell horn, said to have been used to warn the settlers of threatened raids of this kind, is a highly prized relic in the possession of this Society. This old so-called "Fort" is still standing, altho in a very dilapidated condition. Loop-holes in the walls of the building through which those inside fired their guns against their enemies, are still to be seen where they were originally placed.

After this preliminary training in his boyhood and younger manhood years the leading activities of Mr. Riegel's busy life were those of a teacher of schools, and a teacher of vocal music, in both of which occupations he excelled, and excelled in each to a degree to make it difficult to say whether he excelled in one more than in the other.

His first teacher's certificate was dated August 16, 1862,

and his first work as a teacher was in a primary school in Fredericksburg. After a term the following year in Cornwall Township he was called to the town of Lebanon, and enrolled amongst its teaching force, and with the exception of two terms in the country, he remained itentifiet with Lebanon's schools for a period of forty years or more, evidence of a very high order as to his efficiency as a public school teacher.

During this long period of his Lebanon school work Prof. Riegel witnessed the gradual development of the town's schools from their ungraded condition up to their present efficient status, with which he himself kept pace, so that when under the law of 1893, it came to the matter of appointing Principals he was the first one to receive such an appointment, which was the Principalship of the Fairview School, 6th and Chestnut street.

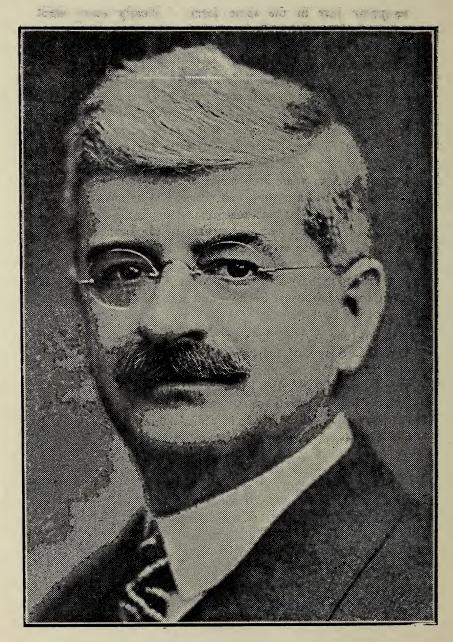
In his other main activity, his musical work, Prof. Riegel was quite as successful and effective. Possessed of a fine voice and an early development of a love for music, together with engaging manners, he came to be, as the years went by, a leader in singing school work, and in organizing and training large singing classes, both in his own county and in adjoining counties, these classes having been mostly in country districts. In one locality of this county, namely that of Richland, he taught such classes for a period of eighteen He organized his first class in 1862, at the age of only 17 years, and taught music continuously thereafter until On June 6, 1885, a musical re-1895, a period of 32 years. union was held in the Tulpehocken Reformed Church, two miles east of Myerstown, of those who in previous years had come under his instruction. Each one of them wore a badge for the occasion—and there were six hundred of them that comprised the chorus on that day, besides which, of the three thousand composing the audience, most of them also were former pupils of his.

During Prof. Riegel's period the old-time country singing-school ("sing schule") passed out of existence, never to

re-appear just in the same form. Nearly every community had its winter singing school, and whether they wanted to or not, the young "fellers" and girls had to go to singing school and learn their do, re, mi, fa, sol, la, si, do's and whilst they may not have attained a Caruso or a Melba standard, they got to do some mighty fine singing, and furthermore managed to get a whole lot of fun out of it. there was one thing a basso or a tenor coveted to do it was to "see home" a soprano or an alto after the evening's work studying their music. How often did this annotator importune Prof. Riegel to write for this Society a paper reciting his over-a-quarter-of-a-century experiences as a singing school Alas, that both the promise and the promiser have vanished! In later years he organized the Lebanon Choral He also served as a choirmaster of the First Reformed Church, Lebanon for a period of fifteen years, June 22, 1900, he was admitted to membership in the Lebanon County Historical Society, and was its Librarian at the time of his death.

On June 9, 1868 he was united in wedlock with Miss Emma C. Spayd, of Lebanon. Of the six children born to them three preceded their father in death, and the three surviving are Mrs. F. W. Frazier, of Greensburg, Pa.; Miss Rhoda N., a Cornwall school teacher, and Samuel J., Assistant Superintendent of Music in Philadelphia's Public Schools, and also an expert pipe organist.

S. P. H.



ALFRED RHODES HOUCK

ALFRED RHODES HOUCK

Born January 29, 1868. Died May 22, 1915. Aged 47 yrs., 3 mos. and 23 days.

Mr. Houck was one of six children of Henry and Susan Margaret (Bucher) Houck, born at their father's then and present residence, 439 Chestnut Street, Lebanon, the son of a man of wide repute and large service to the State, mainly in its educational work, first as a public school teacher, then as County Superintendent of Public Schools in Lebanon County, still later as Deputy State Superintendent of Public Schools, and now as State Secretary of Internal Affairs.

Mr. Houck's early education was secured in the public schools and the High School of Lebanon, followed by a special course at the Annville Normal School. In 1884, at the age of 16, he entered the Weimer Machine Works at Lebanon, served an apprenticeship of three years, following this with a three year's course in the drafting and mechanical engineering department of that establishment, after which he was engaged for six years in mechanical engineering in that In 1897 he took a position as mechanical engipeer in the Lackawanna Iron and Steel Works at Scran-A year later he entered the United States Revenue Service at Lancaster as chief stamps deputy or cashier, where he served for two years and nine months, and then resigned the same to fill the appointment of Postmaster at Lebanon, to which he was named February 1, 1901, first by Pres. Mc-Kinley and then successively by Presidents Taft and Roosevelt, thus serving a period of three terms of four years each. or twelve years altogether.

His administration of the Lebanon Postoffice, and as this touched postal affairs throughout the Country, was thoroughly well done, energetic, business-like, and commanded the commendation of his descerning friends alike in both political parties. During his incumbency as Lebanon's Postmaster he

secured the present system of mail collection and delivery throughout the city, that previously had so largely come into vogue in large cities in the country, and also was instrumental in securing more frequent mail service to and from near and distant centres, together with prompt despatch to and from incoming and outgoing trains. It was also during his term that the present rural mail service was established in this county, in planning for which and in routing the same, he did very excellent work, as also in advancing it from time to time to greater efficiency.

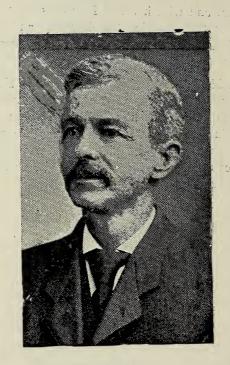
During his incumbency of the office of Cashier of Internal Revenue at Lancaster he came into political prominence, and on his return to Lebanon became step by step the acknowledged leader of his party in the county, and as such was a thoroughbred to the limit. On Lebanon's political rialto he was familiarly known as "Allee" Houck, and by reason of his industrious political habits he compelled his political foes, if not always to a respectful at least to an observant attitude towards him, with the additional advantage that whether in defeat or victory he kept in jolly good humor, passed around a good word and braced up for the next fray. It was in the days of "Woomer" and "Anti-Woomer"—the latter won outthe District, of which Lebanon County formed a part, "got" an excellent Congressman in the Hon. Marlin E. Olmsted and Mr. Houck "got" the Postoffice. His political activities gained him the friendship of many leaders in State and even national politics. He was intensely active in advocating the election of the Hen. Martin G. Brumbaugh to the Governorship of the State, and under the latter "landed" for himself in the year 1910 the honorable position of Chief Statistician in the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry at Harrisburg, which position he held at the time of his death.

Mr. Houck was a member of the Lebanon Steitz Club, and of the Lebanon Lodge of Elks. He was formerly a member of the Patriotic Order of the Sons of America. He was also at the time of his death a member of the Lebanon

Engineer's Club, a member of the Fourth Street Presbyterian Church, and of the Lebanon County Historical Society to which latter he was admitted Dec. 29, 1905.

On Jan. 4, 1899, Mr. Houck united himself in marriage with Miss Emily J. Mays, a daughter of J. Milton Mays, of Philadelphia, and with her had four daughters, all of whom, with their mother, survive the deceased, and remain in occupancy of their handsome residence in Hathaway Park, Lebanon.

His sudden death and so early in a life already marked by many successful achievements as to insure other meritorious things yet to be done by him had his life been extended further, was sincerely mourned by a large circle of his friends, who had learned to admire him, and who on the day of his obsequies came in numbers and from distant places, as well as those nearby, to attest their sorrow. S. P. H.



BENJ. F. ZERBE, M. D.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN ZERBE, M. D.

Born October 11, 1853. Died May 30, 1915. Aged 67 yrs., 7 mos and 19 days.

Dr. Zerbe was the youngest of three sons of Dr. Jonathan and Martha A. (Meyer) Zerbe. Dr. Jonathan was born in Tulpehocken, Berks County, Pa., in 1811, from whence, after maturity, and after having spent some years in the State of Virginia, where he attended school, and after his return to Pennsylvania, he came to Schaefferstown in 1837, and settled there. Later he attended a course of lectures at the Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, and on his return to Schaefferstown took up the practice of medicine there, and in time became prominent in medical circles and in public The American progentor of the Zerbe family came to life. America from one of the French Cantons of Switzerland in the days of Oueen Anne, settled in Berks County in 1723, and obtained a grant of land there. On the maternal side the family is related to the Schaeffer family, whose ancestor in this country, Alexandria Schaeffer, founded Schaefferstown (then known as Heidelberg) in 1743, he having come from the University town of Heidelberg, in Baden, Germany, hence this early name of Schaefferstown, and still the name of the township of which it is the centre.

After a course in his home schools and one at Palatinate College, Myerstown, Dr. Zerbe took up the reading of medicine with his father and older brother, Dr. Thomas T., and subsequently took a course in the Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, from which he was graduated in 1878. After practicing his profession for some time with the late Dr. Geo. Gleim at Cornwall, he settled down in his native town and continued his practice there to the day of his death. Along with this he engaged in his later years, with his brother, Dr.

Thomas T., quite extensively in the industry of cigar-manufacturing, the eastern section of Heidelberg Township and the neighboring Millbach section having gone largely into the growing of tobacco, for which their soils, like that of many parts of the adjacent county of Lancaster, had been found especially adapted.

Dr. Zerbe, as a member of the Republican party for years took an active part in the political affairs of his county, like his father, who had aided in organizing that party in Lebanon County and had taken an aggressive part in the Fremont Campaign of 1856, and also represented his county in the Pennsylvania Legislature in 1870—71. Dr. Zerbe served as Prothonotary of the county during the years 1907, 1908 and 1909. He also was at one time a member of the School Board of Heidelberg Township.

He was admitted to membership in the Lebanon County Historical Society Aug. 15, 1913. On November, 1883, he was united in marriage with Miss Ida a daughter of the late Judge Geo. S. Lauser of Schaefferstown, who survives him, together with a son, Charles L. Zerbe a former Deputy Prothonotary during the term of his father and that of Eli Wallace, of Newmanstown. He is also survived by his brother, Dr. Thomas T., already mentioned, and by another brother, Charles M. Zerbe, Esq., an Attorney at Lebanon, and at one time President of the Lebanon Bar Association and one sister Jennie M., the wife of Jacob F. Hickernell, of Schaefferstown, and also had another sister, Agnes E., the deceased wife of Dr. Geo. Mays, of Philadelphia, who formerly, but now deceased, was a valued member of this Society and contributed to it a number of excellent papers.

The estimate placed upon Dr. Zerze by his friends and fellow-citizens is that he was of a kindly disposition, broad minded, public spirited, and helpfully disposed to all movements in his section tending to promote its welfare.

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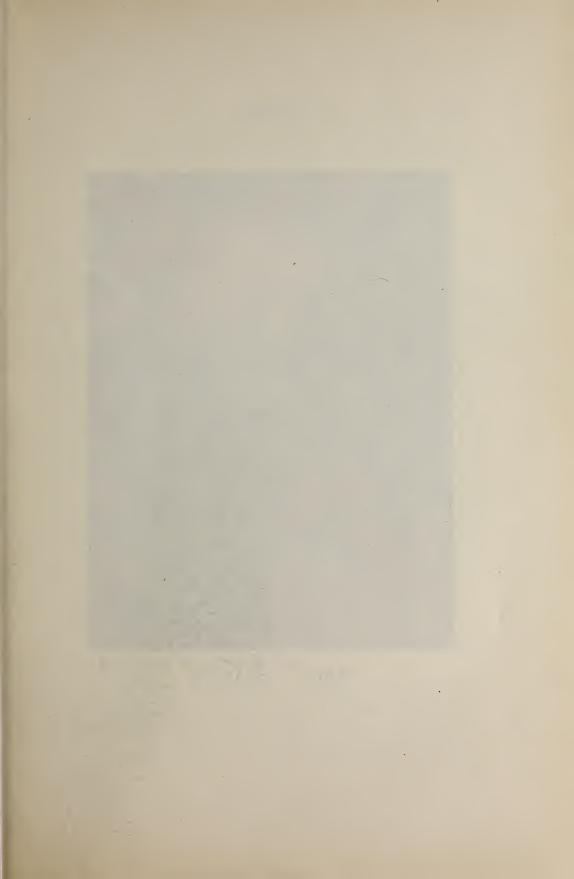
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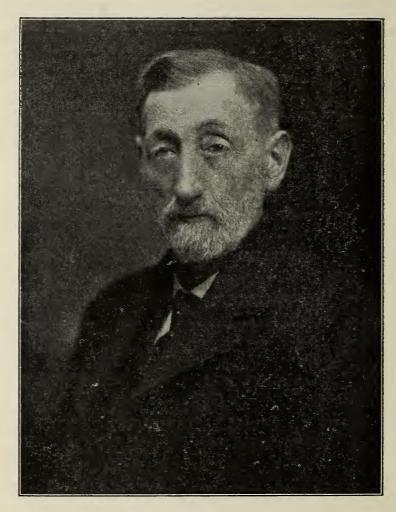
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HENRY C. SNAVELY

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Born November 14, 1844. Died November 21, 1915. Aged 71 yrs, 7 days.

Mr. Snavely was the son of Joseph and Elizabeth (Brandt) Snavely, and was in line of descent from Casper Snavely, (originally written Schnebeli), who was an immagrant from Switzerland in the year 1735, and settled in Eastern Pennsylvania. Subsequently his son, John Ulrich, the great grand-father of Mr. Snavely, purchased about five hundred acres of land two and one-half miles west of what 18 now the City of Lebaton, a part of which tract is still in the hands of Mr. Snavely's children.

After his boyhood years with his parents on the home farm, and attending school at the Annville Academy and Eastman's Business College, Poughkeepsie, N. Y., he engaged for three terms in teaching, and then settled down to farming for himself, first on the old home farm until 1879, and then on a tract of eighty-seven acres, a part of the home farm, and which later became known as the Snavely fruit farm at Westmont, and for the occupancy of which he erected for himself and his family a fine residence and farm buildings on the Westmont hillside, with the beautiful Lebanon Valley below as an ever charming vista.

Here then, in his new place, he launched out broadly and extensively into the culture of fruit, first, into strawberries as a specialty, and later into a variety of small fruits, together with grape culture, and a line of standard fruits, including

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cherries, plums, peaches and apples, making the latter two his leading fruit study and cultivation, and in which he became and remained the leader grower in Lebanon County. He also was a large grower of choice potatoes.

Besides and during this lond period of agricultural and pomological activity he was active in many other ways, pertaining mainly, however, to agricultural interests. the first subordinate Grange of the Pennsylvania Patrons of Husbandry in Lebanon County was organized by his help, of which order he remained a life long member. He was a member of both the State and National Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union, and in both at times was given prominent positions, as President for some years of the former, and a Vice President of the latter. For upwards of thirty years he was a member of the State Horticultural Society, of which for three years he was the President and for many years the Chairman of its General Fruit Committee. From 1895 and up to the time of his death, he was Lebanon County's representative on the State Board of Agriculture, and during many of these years conducted the annual Farmers' Institutes in the County. On Jan. 12, 1895, he helped to organize the Lebanon County Agricultural and Horticultural Association and remained a valued member to the day of his death. He was admitted to the Lebanon County Historical Society Feb. 16, 1900, and was a member of the Philognomean Literary Socie-In township affairs he served two terms of three years as a School Director in North Lebanon Township, and was elected Feb. 20, 1906, for a term of three years as its Road Supervisor. Possessed of musical ability, he taught singing school at times, was leader of the Westmont Orchestra, and for many years led the Hill Reformed Church choir.

In 1910 Mr. Snavely was made the nominee of the Dem-

ocratic party in Lebanon County for the Pennsylvania Legislature, and altho the candidate of a party largely in the minority he was elected over his competitors by a handsome majority.

Two years later he was on a fusion ballot, re-elected for another term. During both terms he served with marked ability, giving especial attention to the agricultural interests of the State.

On August 13, 1867 Mr. Snavely was united in marriage with Miss Susan Heilman, a daughter of George G. Heilman, residing at Heilman Dale, who was a son of John Henry Heilman, whose niece Eva Heilman, was married to Christian Brandt, through whom Mr. Snavely derived descent on the maternal side from the Heilman family, his marriage with Miss Heilman thus constituting a second re-union of the Snavely and Heilman families. His wife preceded him in death eight years ago. Of the twelve children born to them seven survive their father.

If the practice of Christian morality, helpful neighborliness, devoted service to one's community, and an efficient pursuits of life's undertakings, typify what should be striven for. Mr. Snavely was that type of a man, and by these tokens he is, and will be, remembered.

S. P.H.



THOMAS RONEY CROWELL

THOMAS RONEY CROWELL

Born August 22, 1858. Died November 24, 1915. Aged 57 yrs., 3 mos. and 2 days.

Mr. Crowell was born in the State of Delaware, the son of Rev. John B. Crowell, D. D., a minister of the Presbyterian Church, and a man of fine culture and of wide repute. As he was an exceptionally bright boy young Mr. Crowell advanced rapidly in his studies under his father's careful tutelage, so that as a student at Lafayette College, Easton. Pa, for a course in civil engineering in that Institution, and from which he was graduated in 1879, he completed a required four year's course in the space of three years.

Immediately after this course he was given a position in the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, in which he selved for a year and as an assistant in charting for the Government the rugged coasts of Massachusetts and Maine and the New England Atlantic Seaboard. Resigning from this Government position, wherein he had highly distinguished himself, he was for the next five years or more engaged as a civil engineer with the Pennsylvania Railroad Company.

His first introduction to Lebanon was in the year 1881, in pursuance of a request on the part of Mr. Robert H. Coleman to the Pennsylvania R. R. Co., to survey and build a railroad from Conewago to Cornwall, which request was granted, and Mr. Crowell was given entire charge of that work. On its completion Mr. Crowell was transferred to Norristown, Pa, as Division Engineer of Construction on the Pennsylvania R. R. Company's newly projected line up the Schuylkill Valley. Following the completion of that work in 1885 Mr. Crowell accepted an offer from Mr. Coleman to return to Lebanon and act as his engineering advisor, and as Chief Engineer of the Cornwall and Lebanon Railroad.

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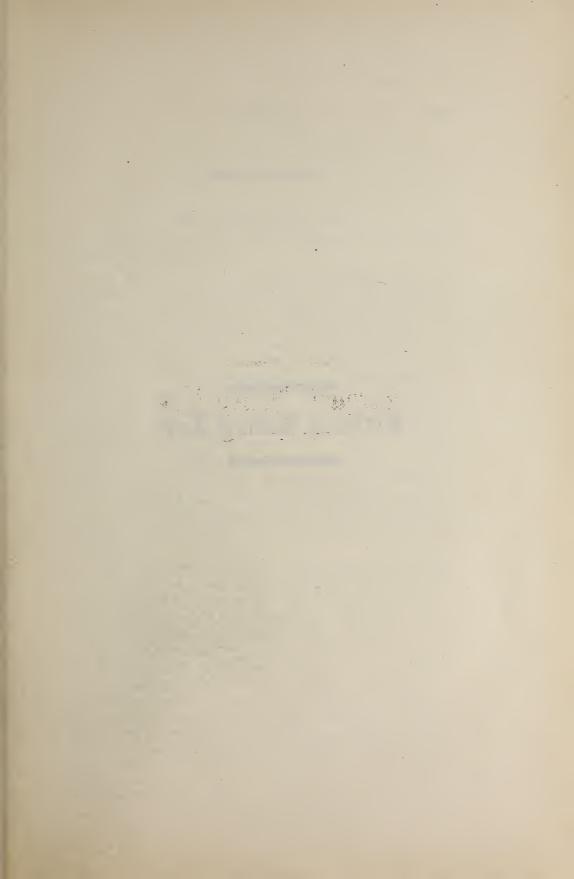
After serving in this position for a period of eight years Mr. Crowell engaged in private practice in Lebanon, the main pieces of his work during this period having been the drawing of the plans for the Seventh Street and Partridge Alley storm sever for the City of Lebanon.

About 1900 he was appointed Lebanon's City Engineer, succeeding the late George Wi. Hayes, and served in that capacity continuously, and with great zeal and fidelity, up to the time of his death. He was the sponsor for the present extensive and modern system of water supply which Lebanon possesses, and himself drew the plans which now are the basis of that system. He also drew and developed the plans for the City's sewerage system, two units of which he lived to see completed. He also drew the plans for the paving of the City's principal streets, as also the plans for the City's disposal plant, in which work he had the assistance of James H. Fuertes, of the city of New York.

Mr. Crowell was a member of the Pennsylvania Engineer's Society, of which he was at one time its President, a member of Lebanon's Royal Arcanum, a member of the Steitz Club, and of the Lebanon County Historical Society since February 17, 1911. He was never married. One married sister, residing at Chatham, N. J., and two unmarried sisters, residing at East Orange, N. J., survive him.

Mr. Crowell's reliability as an engineer, and his good judgment, won him the utmost respect of the citizens of Lebanon and of people in railroad circles, and many further projects for the sanitary and street improvement of the City of Lebano - awaited his guiding hand had his life been prolonged. His personal worth, honesty and integrity were freely attested to, and his liberal giving to public enterprises and for charitable ends was a well-known fact.

S. P. H.



Richard Henry Cee

RICHARD HENRY LEE

Born April 12, 1859. Died December 8, 1915. Aged 53 yrs., 7 mos. and 26 days.

Mr. Lee was born at Abingdon, Washington Co., Virginia, where his parents, Richard Henry Lee, a Civil Engineer, and his wife, May (Wilson) Lee resided at the time but afterwards came into Pennsylvania. He was in direct line of descent from Col. Richard Lee, who, in the year 1647, came over to the Colony of Virginia as Secretary and one of the Privy Council of King Charles, the First, and made large settlements of land with the servants he had brought with him. After some years he returned to England, where he remained some years and then again, with a fresh band of adventurers went back to Virginia, and settled there. Much of the land settled by Col. Lee and his fellow voyagers on their first trip to Virginia is still (1895) in the hands of their descendants. Richard Henry Lee, the great grandson of Col. Herry Lee, and the great grandfather of the person here sketched, was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence.

Mr. Lee's activities pertained almost exclusively to the iron industry, and in this he attained signal success, and was widely recognized for his ability in that line, and for his intimate knowledge of the intracies of iron manufacturing. After completing a course at Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pa. in 1879, his father placed him in charge of the cold blast charcoal furnace of the Legan Iron and Steel Co., at Burnham, Pa., of which plant he was the Superintendent from that year to 1884, its Assistant General Superintendent from 1884 to 1891, and its General Superintendent from 1891 to 1898. From 1898 to 1899 he was the blast furnace Superintendent of the Colorado Fuel and Iron Co, Pueblo, Col., and from

1899 to 1903 its Assistant General Superintendent; in 1903 Superintendent of the Middlebrough Furnaces of the Tennessee Iron and Coal Co., Middlebrough, Kentucky; in 1904 Superintendent of the Gadsden Furnace of the Alabama Iron and Coal Co., Gadsden, Alabama; 1904—1905 Assistant Superintendent of the Buffalo Furnace of the Lackawanna Steel Co., Buffalo, N. Y.; 1905—1906 Superintendent of the Liberty Furnace of the Shenandoah Iron Co., Liberty Furnace, Pa., and from 1906, when he came to Lebanon, Superintendent up to the time of his death of the Lebanon Furnace of the Pennsylvania Steel Co., and from 1913 to 1915, Consulting Engineer and Metallurgist to the American Manganese Manufacturing Co., Dunbar, Pa.

Mr. Lee was a member of the American Institute of Mining Engineers, the American Iron and Steel Institute, the Engineer's Society of Western Pennsylvania, the Engineers' Club of Lebanon, the Steitz Club of Lebanon and of the Lebanon County Historical Society. He wrote extensively, his chief contributions having appeared in the Transactions of the American Institute of Mining Engineers for 1886, 1906, 1912 and 1913. He also was an occasional contributor to the discussion of others, and the author of several important articles in the technical press.

On June 4, 1874, he was married to Miss Catharine M., a daughter of Dr. Alexander H. and Eleanor Sheaffer and is survived by his wife and a son, Richard Henry Lee, aged 20 years, entered as a student at Lehigh University.

Mr. Lee was known as a master of his art, a man of genial manners, a lover of good books, esteemed by his employees, helpful to others, and of whom A. I. Findley, Editor of "The Iron Age," writes as having been "a man of exceptional ability in blast furnace work," and of his death as being "a distinct loss to iron mettallurgy."











